

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 01059 191548 Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 NIC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

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R 191210 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6429

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1059

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN NO XZ

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: A. HELSINKI 689

B. STOCKHOLM 946

C. STATE 45660

D. OSLO 806

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO TELL US THEY ARE IN NO HURRY TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA. AS OF NOW, NORWAY DOES NOT INTEND TO JOIN ITS NORDIC BRETHRENN IN A COORDINATED DECISION ON RECOGNITION AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FINNISH PROPHECY OF A JOINT DECISION ON RECOGNITION AT THE MARCH 29-30 OSLO MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (REF A) COULD, OF COURSE, PROVE IN THE END TO HAVE BEEN ACCURATE. AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, IT RUNS COUNTER TO WHAT THE NORWEGIAN SAY ABOUT THEIR OWN INTENTIONS.

3. ARBEIDERBLADET ON MARCH 10 QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER
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PAGE 02 OSLO 01059 191548 Z

SECY SVENNEVIG AS STATING THAT " THERE ARE NO CONCRETE PLANS FOR NORWEGIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA," ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT RULE OUT DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION AT THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. ON MARCH 14 AN EMBOFF TOOK UP THE QUESTION WITH SVENNEVIG, EXPRESSING REGRET THAT THE DANES HAD NOW TAKEN A DECISION ON RECOGNITION AND HOPE THAT THIS DID NOT FORESHADOW LIKE ACTION BY NORWAY. SVENNEVIG REPLIED THAT THE NORWEGIAN POSITION REMAINED AS HE HAD STATED TO ARBEIDERBLADET ; HE ADDED THAT " NORWAY WILL NOT BE THE FIRST OR THE SECOND" OF THE NORDICS TO RECOGNIZE PYONGYANG. HE THOUGHT THE MOST THAT WOULD BE SAID ON THE SUBJECT IN THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WOULD BE THAT KOREA WAS ON THE AGENDA (" IT ALWAYS IS") AND THAT THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION WAS DISCUSSED. SVENNEVIG ALSO SAID THAT, WHILE NORWAY IS NOT PREPARED TO COMMIT ITSELF TO WAIT FOR ANY SPECIFIC EVENT BEFORE EXTENDING RECOGNITION-- AND CERTAINLY NOT TO WAIT FOR REUNIFICATION-- AS OF NOW THE GOVT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE TIME RIPE.

4. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE RECOGNITION ISSUE LATER IN THE WEEK WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (BORDE) WHO WILL GO TO STOCKHOLM MARCH 19 FOR A PRE- MINISTERIAL PREPARATORY SESSION WITH HIS NORDIC COUNTERPARTS. TO WHAT SVENNEVIG HAD TOLD US, BORDE ADDED ONLY THAT THERE IS ALMOST NO PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE QUESTION IN NORWAY AT THE MOMENT. BUT HE OBSERVED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT HOW QUICKLY INTEREST, AND THEREFORE PRESESSURES FOR RECOGNITION, MAY BUILD UP ONCE THE SWEDES, DANES AND FINNS HAVE ACTED. CROWE

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